(d) The performance of India's manufacturing and software exports during recent years, both in absolute and percentage terms, is given below:

Year	Manufacturing Exports	Software Exports (in US$ billion)
2001 -02	33.4	7.6
	(-2.8)	(19.2)
2002-03	38.4	9.6
	(14.9)	(27.1)

(NOTE: Figures in brackets indicate percentage variation over the corresponding period of the previous year.)

Service Tax on Port Service

1689. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have imposed eight per cent service tax on services provided by minor ports;

(b) if so, whether any representation has been received by Government from Maritime Boards including Gujarat; and

(c) whether Government are reconsidering the issue; if so.the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)A representation dated 29.3.2003, was received from Chief Minister, Gujarat recommending non-imposition of service tax on services provided by minor ports.

(c) No, Sir.

Information on Tax payers

1690. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Income Tax Department is trying to

collect information about some individuals whose net worth according to Income Tax Department is high; and

(b) how will it benefit the Income Tax Department when it is already mandatory for such persons to file Income Tax return?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Income Tax Department is collecting information under the powers derived from section 133 (6) of the Income Tax Act 1961 in respect of certain transaction beyond certain monetary limits. Such information is being collected to achieve the twin objective of widening the tax base and preventing tax evasion.

Functioning of offices of registrar of Companies

1691. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various offices of the Registrar of Companies are showing very little interest in tackling the complaints of small shareholders and depositors in various companies under their jurisdiction;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to energise such offices;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the office of Registrar in Meerut is also very slow to react to such complaints;

(d) if so.the details of pending complaints in that area; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to activate such offices?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The complaints from the investors including complaints of small shareholders are taken up with the respective companies for redressal of investors grievances expeditiously.

(c) to (e) There is no office of the Registrar of Companies in Meerut. Office of the Registrar of Companies situated at Kanpur, having jurisdiction for the companies registered in the entire State of Uttar Pradesh, has five complaints pending against 5 companies registered in Uttar Pradesh as on 31.7.2003.